

B. Claims

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and listings.

1-45. (Cancelled)

46. (Previously Presented) An aqueous odor controlling bacterial composition for treating a surface, the composition selected from the group consisting of composition (A) and composition (B),

wherein said composition (A) includes:

(i) a bacterium capable of forming a spore, which can become active when exposed to an odor-causing organic material and which, upon activation, is capable of digesting said odor-causing organic material; and

(ii) an adhering agent, which is at least one selected from the group consisting of a fluorochemical, an acrylic co-polymer, a styrene butadiene rubber, a nitrile rubber, a polyvinyl chloride, and a stain blocker selected from the group consisting of a sulfonated phenol formaldehyde condensate polymer, a sulfonated naphthol formaldehyde condensate polymer, and a hydrolyzed vinyl aromatic maleic anhydride polymer, in an amount sufficient to adhere said bacterium to said surface upon

application of said bacterial composition thereto and to allow said bacterium to remain adhered to said surface such that said bacterium can be exposed to said odor-causing organic material and become active, and

wherein composition (B) consists essentially of:

(i) a bacterium capable of forming a spore, which can become active when exposed to an odor-causing organic material and which, upon activation, is capable of digesting said odor-causing organic material;

(ii) at least one adhering agent in an amount sufficient to adhere said bacterium to said surface upon application of said bacterial composition thereto and to allow said bacterium to remain adhered to said surface such that said bacterium can be exposed to said odor-causing organic material and become active; and, optionally,

(iii) at least one odor neutralizing or odor trapping agent.

47. (Previously Presented) The composition according to Claim 46, comprising said composition (A).

48. (Currently Amended) The composition according to Claim 46,

which is comprising said composition (B).

49. (Previously Presented) The composition according to Claim 48, wherein said adhering agent is at least one selected from the group consisting of a fluorochemical, a stain blocker, an acrylic co-polymer, a styrene butadiene rubber, a nitrile rubber and a polyvinyl chloride.

50. (Previously Presented) The composition according to Claim 49, wherein said adhering agent is said fluorochemical.

51. (Previously Presented) The composition according to Claim 47, wherein said adhering agent is said fluorochemical.

52. (Previously Presented) The composition according to Claim 47, wherein said adhering agent is said stain blocker.

53. (Previously Presented) The composition according to Claim 49, wherein said adhering agent is said stain blocker.

54. (Currently Amended) The composition according to Claim [[52]] 53, wherein said stain blocker is selected from the group consisting of sulfonated phenol

formaldehyde condensate polymer, sulfonated naphthol formaldehyde condensate polymer, and hydrolyzed vinyl aromatic maleic anhydride polymer.

55. (Previously Presented) The composition according to Claim 47, wherein said adhering agent is said acrylic co-polymer.

56. (Previously Presented) The composition according to Claim 49, wherein said adhering agent is said acrylic co-polymer.

57. (Previously Presented) The composition according to Claim 47, wherein said adhering agent constitutes between 0.01 wt % and 20 wt % of said composition based upon a total weight of said composition.

58. (Previously Presented) The composition according to Claim 48, wherein said adhering agent constitutes between 0.01 wt % and 20 wt % of said composition based upon a total weight of said composition.

59. (Currently Amended) The composition according to Claim [[56]] 57, wherein said adhering agent constitutes between 0.1 wt % and 15 wt % of said composition.

60. (Currently Amended) The composition according to Claim [[57]] 58, wherein said adhering agent constitutes between 0.1 wt % and 15 wt % of said composition.

61. (Currently Amended) The composition according to Claim [[58]] 59, wherein said adhering agent constitutes between 5 wt % and 10 wt % of said composition.

62. (Currently Amended) The composition according to Claim [[59]] 60, wherein said adhering agent constitutes between 5 wt % and 10 wt % of said composition.

63. (Currently Amended) The composition according to Claim 47, comprising further comprising at least one odor neutralizing or odor trapping agent.

64. (Previously Presented) The composition according to Claim 48, comprising said at least one odor neutralizing or odor trapping agent.

65. (Currently Amended) The composition according to Claim [[62]] 63, wherein said odor neutralizing or odor trapping agent is sodium bicarbonate or molecular sieves.

66. (Currently Amended) The composition according to Claim [[63]] 64, wherein said odor neutralizing or odor trapping agent is sodium bicarbonate or molecular sieves.

67. (Previously Presented) The composition according to Claim 47, wherein said bacterium is of the genus *Bacillus*.

68. (Previously Presented) The composition according to Claim 48, wherein said bacterium is of the genus *Bacillus*.

69. (Currently Amended) The composition according to Claim [[66]] 67, wherein said bacterium of the genus *Bacillus* is one or more strains selected from the group of bacterial species consisting of *Bacillus megaterium*, *Bacillus pasteurii*, *Bacillus laevolacticus* and *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens*.

70. (Currently Amended) The composition according to Claim [[67]] 68, wherein said bacterium of the genus *Bacillus* is one or more strains selected from the group of bacterial species consisting of *Bacillus megaterium*, *Bacillus pasteurii*, *Bacillus laevolacticus* and *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens*.